

THE WATER BOARD

Assailed by the Miners in Trades Assembly Meeting.

THE RECENT TESTS OF COAL

As Fuel at the Water Works Pumping Station Alleged to Have Been Conducted in an Unfair Manner by the Water Works Officials—Coal Claimed to be the Cheaper Fuel—Proceedings of Sunday's Trades Assembly Meeting.

A regular meeting of the Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly, the local representative labor organization, was held in its hall on Market street, yesterday afternoon. President M. F. Tighe occupied the chair and Secretary Boes was at the desk. There was an unusually large attendance of delegates from the various local unions.

The following new delegates were admitted and obligated:

Garfield assembly (clgar makers)—Ernest Krumm, vice William Buecy. Painters' and Decorators' National Union, No. 91—Luther Selver.

The boycott committee reported a number of boycotts progressing in a satisfactory way.

The West Virginia legislative committee reported regarding the recent test, made at the pumping station of the city water works, of coal as fuel, compared with natural gas. It will be remembered that the coal miners' committee gave a detailed report some time ago, in which it was shown that coal is the cheaper fuel. The legislative committee yesterday presented a communication from the city water board in which it is shown, from the board's observation of the test, that coal is not the cheaper of the two articles of fuel.

To the water board's communication, Delegate Foster of the coal miners, made the following reply:

To the Honorable Water Board of the City of Wheeling:

"Gentlemen:—In reply to the report of your honorable body, which appeared in the newspapers of November 10, 1896, wherein you state that you have determined the relative cost of operating the pumping station of the city water works with both gas and coal as fuel, we wish to state that we consider your report very unfair and misleading.

First, you state that you find by tests made under the supervision of our committee on September 14, 1896, there was consumed 614 bushels of coal in the 24 hour test, making a total of 224,110 bushels per year, at a cost of \$8,400. We desire to state that neither our committee nor the engineers we had employed had anything to do with supervising the test, which you speak of, nor did we in any way speak, intimate, suggest, direct, or do anything that could be construed that we were present for the purpose of superintending the test. The matter was entirely in the hands of the superintendent and his subordinates. The test was taken by our engineers, and deduct coal account and such other facts connected with the test as we deemed proper, for the purpose of enabling us to make an intelligent report.

We wish to call your attention to several other facts connected with the present controversy. It will be remembered that the test was taken at the time of the test, September 14, 1896, was 614 bushels. Taking the Water Board's own figures as to the cost of the coal per year, based on the 614 bushels per 24 hours run, which we stated in our former report, to be in excess of good practice, or a coal consumption of 614 bushels per year, at a cost of \$8,400, we find that the cost of the coal per bushel, at the 614 bushel rate, is 34.27 cents per bushel, or 93.3 cents per ton of 2,000 pounds. It would aggregate \$8,404.12 per year, taking the statement and figures of the board and the consulting engineer who made the test of October 28, 1896.

We find that the coal consumption, as per his or their report, was as follows: for the 12 hours test, 155 bushels of coal, or 370 bushels per 24 hours, making a total coal consumption for the year of 135,050 bushels, at a cost of 5 1/2 cents per bushel, as per their own figures, would make \$7,427.75.

Now, taking into account the difference between the cost of the coal per bushel used at the different tests above mentioned, is as follows: The cost of coal per year, reckoned on a basis of the coal consumption as per test of September 14, 1896, is \$8,404.12, at the 614 bushel rate, showing a difference of \$976.37.

Taking the amount of coal necessary to operate said plant as per test of October 28, 1896, at a coal consumption of 135,050 bushels per year, at the rate paid for coal as per their report, pertaining to the test of September 14, 1896, 32 cents per bushel, or 93.3 cents per ton of 2,000 pounds, would aggregate \$5,064.37. Now, deducting \$5,064.37 from \$8,404.12 shows a saving in the coal item at the 34.27-cent rate, as per their own figures and statements of September 14, 1896, test, of \$3,339.75. Then take the cost of the test of September 14, 1896, \$8,404.12, at the 614 bushel rate, leaving a balance of \$3,235.63 in favor of coal.

Now, to give the board the benefit of the additional expense claimed by them, two extra firemen at \$1,400; one ash wheeler, \$600; repairs, etc., \$300, we have \$2,300, the extra expense represented to be necessary for the use of using coal as fuel, deduct \$2,300 from \$3,235.63, the credit in favor of coal over gas as fuel, we have a difference on the coal side of the account of \$935.63 in favor of gas fuel.

In support of our former report and the above figures, we wish to call your attention to several other facts. During the test of September 14, 1896, there were three Heine boilers used, and the engines made 34,820 revolutions, equal to 8,938,560 gallons of water pumped; and during the test of October 28th, there was only two Heine boilers used, and the engines made 25,532 revolutions, equal to 9,167,256 gallons of water pumped, showing an increase in speed over former test of 712 revolutions, equal to 183,696 gallons of water over former test.

We have arrived at the above facts and conclusions by figures given us by the water board in their report. We will now attempt to show how far their report is at variance with the facts.

The board bases the yearly consumption of coal, on a basis of the daily consumption of coal, while making test. In making test of September 14, 1896, the coal consumption was 614 bushels per 24 hours, and the board multiplies 614 by 365, the number of days in a year, and tells the public that the yearly consumption of coal is 224,110 bushels, when they know at the same time it is nothing of the kind. They do not tell the public that the 614 bushels of coal consumed in the 24 hours test, was 614 bushels of water, or 938,560 gallons in excess of the daily consumption. We find by calculation, as per above test, that it would require a daily consumption of 647 bushels of coal to supply the daily average consumption of water, which is 8,000,000 gallons. A daily consumption of 647 bushels would amount to 199,655 bushels per year, which would cost at 34.27 cents per bushel, or 80 cents per ton, \$6,888.96, cost of gas, \$7,200, leaving a balance in favor of coal of \$311.04.

In making test of October 28, 1896, the coal consumption was 155 bushels per 12 hours. The number of gallons of water pumped was 9,167,256. We also find by calculation that to pump 8,000,000 gallons of water, the daily average consumption, it would require, as per test, 329 bushels of coal, or a yearly consumption of 120,959 bushels. Reckoned on a basis of this, the coal can be purchased at 34.27 cents per bushel, or 80 cents per ton, would amount to \$3,542.72 per year, a saving over gas per year of \$3,339.75; or, reckoned on a basis of what Pittsburgh coal can be purchased for, which was proposed to be used in making test of October 28,

1896, 5 1/2 cents per bushel, or \$1,374.10 per ton, would amount to \$6,804.67, making a difference in favor of \$306.32.

We would like to have the water board explain why it was that there was so much more coal consumed in making the test of September 14, 1896, than was consumed in making the test of October 28th. It will be remembered that in the test of September 14th there was consumed 614 bushels of coal, while the engines made 34,820 revolutions, and pumped 8,938,560 gallons of water, and showed an engine duty of 43,723,700 foot pounds; while at the test made October 28th, there was consumed 155 bushels of coal, and the engines made 25,532 revolutions and pumped 9,167,256 gallons of water, and developed a duty of 123,970,000 foot pounds, or a duty in excess of what was obtained in the test of September 14th of 80,246,300 foot pounds.

We hope the water board will not try to explain this excessive difference in the duties obtained in the two tests by importing it to the inferior quality of our home coal. In order to enable the public to judge intelligently in regard to this controversy, it will be necessary for us to go back twelve months or more, when a committee from the Trades Assembly, in connection with the miners' committee, waited on the water board with a view of inducing them to substitute coal as fuel of natural gas as fuel at the Wheeling water plant, as it would give employment to quite a number of men who are citizens and tax-payers of the city, and would leave seven or eight thousand dollars per year in the city, which would be spent with the business people and would rebound to the city's interest generally; whereas, by the use of gas, this money is paid to the foreign corporation and scarcely any of it is spent in the city. The water board agreed with our committee that it would be to the best interests of the city to have the money that was paid for fuel left in the city, and promised our committee that they would make a test with coal, and if there was not too great a difference in the cost of coal and gas, that they would be willing to use coal as fuel. Our committee left with the understanding that there would be a test made in the near future, but after waiting a considerable time and hearing nothing from the board, our committee waited on them again. At this meeting the board seemed to have forgotten that they had ever promised to make a test with coal, but after the considerable hesitation told us that the boilers were in condition to make a test, but would have a new set of boilers in ninety days and then they would give us a test with coal. We waited ninety days and the new boilers were put in, but we received no word from the board in regard to making the test, and after waiting ninety days longer, and still not hearing anything from the board, our committee visited them again, and somewhat surprised when they informed us that they did not remember of ever agreeing to make a test with coal.

Before we left, however, they agreed to make the test and promised they would let us know in time, so we could be present and see the test made. Shortly after this we received notice that the test was to be made on September 14, so it is plain to be seen that was only through the persistent efforts of the committee that the test was ever made, and not through any desire on the part of the board; and when it was made it was under the most unfavorable circumstances, every obstacle was placed in the way of coal, and everything was done that could be done in order to consume all the coal possible. We are convinced that the test was not made to determine whether coal or gas was the cheapest fuel, but in making the test everything was done that could be done to try to demonstrate that coal was a more costly fuel than gas. We said in a former report, in connection with the test of September 14, when there were 614 bushels of coal consumed and an engine duty developed of only 43,723,700 foot pounds, that one of two facts was demonstrated: either the city of Wheeling, through its agents, the water board, had been imposed upon by the Holly Manufacturing Company in accepting machinery that did not come up to the guarantee duty, or otherwise, the men operating the machinery were incompetent.

This placed the water board in rather an unenviable position, and was the means of bringing about the second test that was made with coal on October 28. The board, in order to vindicate themselves and uphold the reputation of the Holly Company's machinery, retained an expert from Pittsburgh, and they make a private test with coal without notifying our committee. If this test of October 28 was honestly made for the purpose of determining the relative cost of coal and gas as fuel, and we would infer from their report of that test, that that was the object, then our committee being a party to the test, and if the board had any desire to be fair in the matter, it was certainly their duty to inform our committee when the test was going to be made, which they failed to do; but we are led to believe the test was not made for that purpose, but for the purpose of upholding the reputation of the machinery, and their object was to develop the greatest duty possible with the least possible consumption of coal, and in making this test, whether it was the intention of the board or not, they have demonstrated the fact that the city water plant can be operated much cheaper with coal than gas, as figures taken from their own report will show. According to the report of the test of September 14, it will cost \$311.04 to operate the plant with home coal than gas, and according to the report of the test of October 28, it will cost \$3,357.28 less to operate the plant with coal than with gas, the water board finding that the plant can be operated cheaper with coal than gas, are trying to manufacture additional expense. They claim that a return to coal will necessitate the employment of two extra firemen at \$1,400 per year, and one to wheel ashes at \$600 per year, and repairs to furnace grate bars and firing tools, \$300 per year.

We believe that there are a number of firms that would be willing to make a contract to furnish firing tools, grate bars, and repair the furnace for less than one-half the amount. And as for any extra men for firing and wheeling ashes, we feel confident the force employed at the plant at the present time is sufficient to operate it with coal. This would allow four firemen, two on a watch, one man to wheel ashes, which would leave six men to operate the machinery, three on each watch, which every one will have to admit is amply sufficient. The board also figures the coal at a higher figure than it can be bought for. Before closing, we wish to say that we have endeavored to present the matter and facts as we find them, and in as comprehensive a manner as possible.

The presentation of the case made by Delegate Foster was adopted as the assembly's view of the test. Bills to the amount of \$28.20 were audited and ordered paid. A delegate introduced a resolution, giving to one of the Republican candidates for mayor the assembly's endorsement, but the discussion that followed its introduction showed the sentiment of the delegates to be overwhelmingly against taking any part in the approaching municipal struggle. The resolution was withdrawn by its author.

The committee appointed at the special meeting of the assembly, held the Sunday before, made a partial report regarding measures to be taken in the assembly's fight against the adoption of the new city charter which is to be submitted to a vote of the people at a special election slated for December 22.

TO cure all old sores, to heal an indolent ulcer, or to speedily cure piles, you need simply apply DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve according to directions. Its magic-like action will surprise you. It cures all skin diseases, such as eczema, Market streets; Bowle & Co., Bridgeport; Teabody & Son, Benwood.

HIGH grade Wall Paper away down, Rose T. Chew's.

BOLD THIEVES

Terrorize Sistersville—Arson and Murder are Attempted. Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

SISTERSVILLE, W. Va., Nov. 22.—For the past couple of weeks this city has been terrorized by a gang of petty thieves that have been doing a great deal of pilfering. About two weeks ago the house of Dick Cowell was entered and all his clothes, as well as those of his wife, that the thief could carry were taken. Since that time there have been numerous petty robberies, but the climax was reached Friday night when there were seven different places in the city entered and goods stolen. Nothing of value aside from wearing apparel is taken and it is believed that some of the people who live in the shanty boats along the river are the ones that are doing the work.

On Friday night the thieves became bolder than ever and in addition to robbing came very near adding murder as well as arson to the list of their crimes. At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cross, one of the victims, in the north end, kerosene was poured over the house and on the porch and the house was set on fire. The inmates barely escaped with their lives, the fire being discovered accidentally by a gentleman who was on his way home from work about 3 o'clock in the morning. At another place the occupants of the house were chloroformed and when the house was sacked of the edibles and wearing apparel that could be found. So far the police have been unable to do anything in the matter, as they have been hampered considerably in the work. It is now believed that a good clew to the perpetrators has been found and that in a very few days there will be some developments in the case of a startling nature.

GEORGE FERRIS DEAD.

The Builder of the World Famous Wheel Dies of Typhoid Fever.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Nov. 22.—George W. G. Ferris, who conceived and built the world famous Ferris wheel, died at the Mercy hospital in this city at 11 o'clock this morning of typhoid fever. His illness has been brief and it was only Friday that he was taken to the hospital. The attending physicians say his system was greatly run down by overwork. His wife came here from Canton, yesterday, that she might be with her husband in his dying moments.

George Ferris was born at Galesburg, Ills., February 14, 1859. When he was but very young the family removed to Carson City, Nevada, and it was there the young wheel builder spent the years of his early boyhood. In 1876 he came east. He began a course at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of New York City in that year. In 1881 he graduated with high honors. In 1883 he accepted a position with the Louisville Bridge Company, of Louisville, Ky. It was while with that company he first visited Pittsburgh.

He came here to superintend the construction of the structural staff to be used in the Louisville & Nashville railroad bridge at Henderson, Ky. After the completion of the contract, Mr. Ferris engaged in the inspection of structural work on his own account.

In 1887 while pursuing that vocation independently, the firm of G. W. G. Ferris & Company, of Pittsburgh, was established. The concern still exists. In 1888 he was married to Miss Beatty, of Canton, Ohio. It was in 1892 that Mr. Ferris conceived the idea of the wonderful Ferris wheel, that has attracted the attention of all the people of the world and which will go down in history as one of the greatest wonders of the century. The monster passenger wheel, conceived by Mr. Ferris, was built under his personal supervision in this city.

WIRE NAIL TRUST.

News of the Collapse Caused No Surprise at Cleveland.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Nov. 22.—The news from Chicago of the collapse of the wire nail trust was not surprising to some of the manufacturers in this city. Ten days ago it was predicted that the trust would cut the price from \$2.60 to \$1.75 a keg to meet the competition of outside manufacturers who could not be bought up by the pool. A representative of the American Wire Works Company, one of the Cleveland concerns which has been controlled by the trust, said to-day that his company received notice from the trust that the payment of subsidies would stop on the 24th of this month. In consequence the company had arranged to start twenty-five machines manufacturing nails on the 25th of the month.

This manufacturer declared that the buying up of competitors had become too expensive and the trust was forced to discontinue its policy. He predicted that the nail manufacturers who have been released from the trust agreement will combine to make war upon the steel pool which has been charging discriminating prices for billets to wire manufacturers who are outside of the influence of the pool.

PRINCE WANTS A DIVORCE

From His American Wife, who Ran Away with a Gypsy Musician.

PARIS, Nov. 22.—Action for divorce has been commenced by Prince Joseph, of Caraman-Chimay, a Belgian nobleman, against his wife, the Princess of Caraman-Chimay, who was formerly Miss Clara Ward, of Detroit, a very beautiful woman who inherited a large fortune from her father and who was a great favorite in Parisian society. The suit for divorce has brought out a story of the abduction of the princess by a Hungarian gypsy violinist. It is reported that the princess was eccentric to the degree of being mentally unbalanced and that she often visited Paris where she possessed a simple pied-a-terre.

Americans Observe Thanksgiving.

HAMBURG, Nov. 22.—The Hamburger Nachrichten, Prince Bismarck's organ, flatly accuses England of trying to kindle a European blaze under the pretext of helping Armenians. The Nachrichten says further that Europe, with inconceivable blindness, is playing into England's hands and warns Germany not to be lulled by the dangerous adventure.

Low Rate Excursion to Chicago, Ill., via Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

On November 28, the Baltimore & Ohio railroad will sell excursion tickets to Chicago, Illinois, at the rate of \$9.00 for the round trip, good for return on all regular trains until December 2, inclusive.

For further information, call on or address any Baltimore & Ohio ticket agent, or L. S. Allen, assistant general passenger agent, Chicago, Ills.

The Discovery Saved His Life.

Mr. G. Callout, Druggist, Beaverville, Ill., says: "To Dr. King's New Discovery I owe my life. Was taken with La Grippe and tried all the physicians for miles about, but of no avail and was given up and told I could not live. Having Dr. King's New Discovery in my trunk I went for it, and began its use and from the first dose began to get better, and after using three bottles was up and about again. It is worth its weight in gold. We won't keep store or house without it. Get a free trial at Logan Drug Co.'s drug store."

AT ARION HALL.

Like Unto Tara's, "Where the Soul of Music's Shed."

THE OPENING OF THE SEASON

Of the Opera House Orchestra's Semi-Monthly Rehearsals—A Large Audience Listens to this Superb Organization, and Wheeling's Particular Pride, Render a Very Attractive Programme Last Evening—A Monument to One Man's Enthusiasm and Public Spirit.

Ever since the Wheeling Opera House orchestra was organized through the influence and philanthropy of that public-spirited citizen, Mr. Anton Reymann, it has enjoyed not only a local fame and popularity, but its praises have been sung abroad wherever its strains have fallen upon critical ears. Year by year its standard of proficiency has been increased by the same lavish hand that made its existence possible. This has been done through no desire of remunerative results, but the mobilization of the various musicians of this city into a compact organization has been inspired solely by an enthusiasm for music on the part of Mr. Reymann and fostered by local pride.

In these matters he has had the cordial co-operation of Director Spell and the members of the orchestra, who have taken the unselfish delight of artists in their profession in maintaining the high plane which the conscientious execution of their work have placed it. There is no organization of this character that the citizens of this city can point to with more pride.

For a number of years the grand rehearsals of the Opera House orchestra at Arion hall have attracted the music loving people of Wheeling with undiminished enthusiasm and admiration for its performances, and the opening of the present season last night showed that there was no abatement in the charm of its instrumentation, the lower floor and the gallery of the hall being completely filled. The programme belonged was one of exceptional attractiveness. Of the numbers given, perhaps the overture of "Hungarian Lustspiel," Reinhardt's "Forest Echoes," for two cornets (Messrs. Kurner and Hoos), and the piccolo solo, "The Turtle Dove," by John Hummell, were the most popular with the audience.

Mr. Hummell, by the way, is a recent addition to the orchestra. He has played in European organizations, and last evening proved himself a most competent and acceptable performer on that difficult instrument.

The personnel of the orchestra is as follows:

Director—Prof. E. W. Spell.
First violin—Prof. E. Blumenberg; N. Bornholdt, J. Evans, L. Farber.
Second Violins—D. Vaas, C. Vaas, F. Schmeichel.
Viola—L. Feinler.
Cello—Fred Meyer.
Basso—J. H. Fischer.
Flutes—A. Reymann and John Hummell.
Clarionets—H. B. Grimm and Harry Jaeger.
Cornets—Julius Hoos and George Kurner.
Trombone—L. Huseman.
French horns—W. H. Paul, Charles F. Brandfass.
Tyranni—William Ritz.
Drums, etc.—Herman Lohman and H. P. Taub.
Sergeant-at-Arms—Joseph Kraus.

The business end of the organization is conducted of the following excellent staff of officers: A. Reymann, president; H. B. Grimm, secretary; L. Feinler, treasurer; E. W. Spell, musical director; J. H. Fischer, manager.

An Important Difference.
To make it appear to thousands, who think themselves ill, that they are not afflicted with any disease, but that the system simply needs cleansing, it is to bring comfort home to their hearts, as a positive condition is easily cured by using Syrup of Figs. Manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Company only, and sold by all druggists.

Mothers

Anxiously watch declining health of their daughters. So many are cut off by consumption in early years that there is real cause for anxiety. In the early stages, when not beyond the reach of medicine, Hood's Sarsaparilla will restore the quality and quantity of the blood and thus give good health. Read the following letter:

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Cough and nothing seemed to do her any good. I happened to read about Hood's Sarsaparilla and had her give it a trial. From the very first dose she began to get better. After taking a few bottles she was completely cured and her health has been the best ever since." Mrs. ADDIE PECK, 12 Railroad Place, Amsterdam, N. Y.

"I will say that my mother has not stated my case in as strong words as I would have done. Hood's Sarsaparilla has truly cured me and I am now well." CORA PECK, Amsterdam, N. Y.

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